

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-849

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Riverdale Hotel or Rod and Reel Cluband/or common Harrison's Chesapeake House

## 2. Location

street & number Route 33 ☐ not for publicationcity, town Tilghman ☐ vicinity of congressional district Fifthstate MD county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Levin Harrison III, et alstreet & number Route 33 telephone no.: 886-2121city, town Tilghman state and zip code MD 21671

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 553street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 472city, town Easton state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-849

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Riverdale Hotel is located on the east side of Route 33 between Wharf Road and Dogwood Cove Road with the rear of the house facing Dogwood Cove in the village of Tilghman on Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Maryland. The house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1884 by James Cooper, this two-story, frame house is clad in weatherboard and aluminum siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. The original brick pier foundation has been infilled with cinderblocks.

The west (main) facade of the primary wing has a first floor clad in the original weatherboard and sheltered by a full-width screened in porch. This five bay facade has a central, six-paneled door with sidelights and a three light transom flanked by the original six-over-six sash windows. A horseshoe is tacked above the entrance door. The second floor is lit by five six-over-six sash windows with black louvered shutters. A two-story motel wing was added to the south side of this wing in the 1980s. This cinderblock addition has one-over-one sash windows and six panel doors, and is finished with aluminum siding on the second floor.

A two-and-a-half story, six bay wing was added to the north of the primary wing around 1912. This gable roof structure is clad in aluminum siding and stepped forward from the primary wing. The first floor has a one-story, flat roof addition with six eight-over-eight sash windows with black louvered shutters. The second floor is lit by six six-over-six sash windows. The original dormers in the upper half story were replaced in the late 1980s following a fire. Three gable roof dormers currently pierce the roofline of the building. A one-story addition sits to the north of this wing. It is clad in aluminum siding and is lit by a bank of three one-over-one sash windows with black louvered shutters.

The north elevation of the 1912 wing is obscured by a fire escape on the first floor. The fire escape exit serves as the central bay of the attic story flanked by six-over-six sash windows with glazed peak crown mouldings. The second floor of this addition has a central octagonal window and one six-over-six sash window. To the east of this wing is a two-story gable roof addition built in the 1980s for additional dining room and motel

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-849

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect James Cooper

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In the 1850 census William S. Phillips was listed as a farmer living on Dogwood Cove with his family. In 1860, Phillips bought this 15 acre plot which ran west of Dogwood Cove and east of the Main Road called Steam Mill Lot for \$650 from the farm of William M. Covington. Five years later, Phillips sold this land to William P. Jackson who eventually gave it to his son, William James Jackson.

According to a May 22, 1884 edition of the Ledger, Wm. James Jackson was building a large dwelling house on Dogwood Cove with James H. Cooper as the builder. Around 1912, Mrs. Jackson (Susan) had the two-and-a-half story addition built to accomodate boarders who had been staying at the house since the 1890s. These summer boarders came from cities such as Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and would come for weekends, weeks, or the entire summer season. At that time the Jackson boarding house was known as The Riverdale Hotel. A white paling fence surrounded the property and hitching posts were located in front of the house. The approach to the house was lined with apple trees and black walnut trees were planted to the south. To the north, a field of tomatoes was usually cultivated for the canning factory.

The Riverdale Hotel was the main place for entertainment on the Island in those days. One Island resident remembers Samuel and Edward Tenant playing violin and bass fiddle when dances were held in the lounge. A barn used to stand where the Buddy Harrison house is located to the north of the Chesapeake House complex. Here, the Jacksons operated a beer garden.



Riverdale Hotel description continued.

space. Louvered windows light the first floor and the second floor has four banks of two one-over-one sash windows.

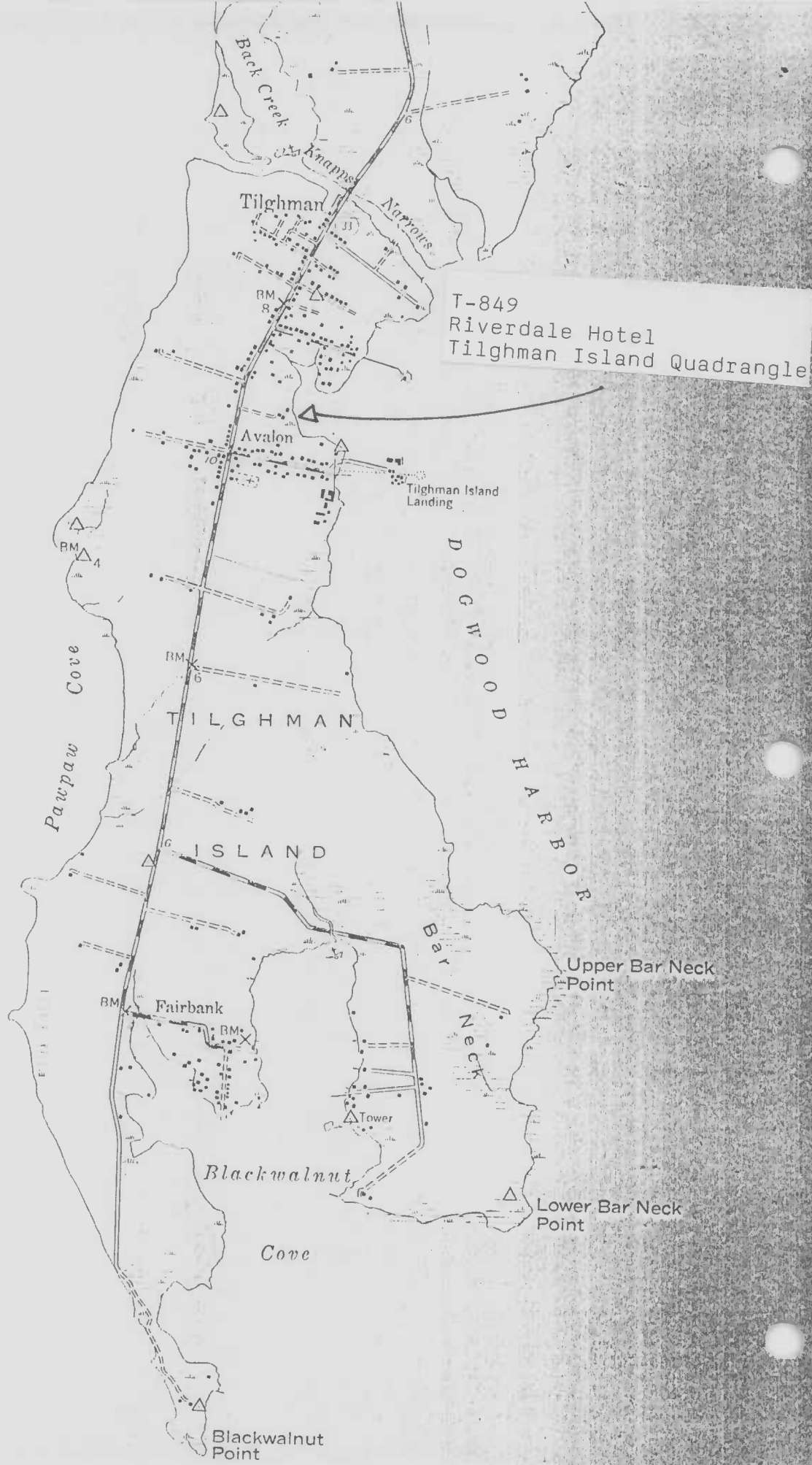
The east elevation's northern wing has a porch which shelters the first story and serves as a walkway for the second story. Louvered windows light the first floor and the second floor has a central entrance door flanked by two pairs of one-over-one sash windows. A central, two-story, gable end wing is currently being completed on this eastern elevation. The first floor has four sets of sliding glass doors and the second floor has six-over-six sash windows and french doors. A brick patio and outdoor deck extend from the first floor of this gable end addition. To the south of this addition is a 1980s cinderblock and aluminum siding motel wing with six-panel doors and one-over-one sash windows on the first and second floors.

The south gable end of the motel wing is blind. Part of the south gable end of the primary wing is still visible in the breezeway which connects it to the modern motel. There, cornice returns and cornerboard remnants are visible on the earlier wing's southeast corner. The first floor of the 1912 addition's south elevation has an entrance door and one six-over-six sash window. The second floor and the attic story are both lit by two six-over-six sash windows.

The original windows of the primary wing's eastern elevation remain visible on the interior of the southern bay as a bank of three six-over-six sash windows. The turned post banister and balustrade of this wing remains intact as is the banister of the 1912 addition.

Riverdale Hotel statement of significance continued.

The Riverdale Hotel came into the possession of William Larry in the 1920s until the early 1930s when Will and Sadie Lowery acquired the property. In 1942 Levin and Alice Harrison purchased the Riverdale Hotel, which was at that time called the Rod and Reel Club. The Riverdale Hotel is currently known as Harrison's Chesapeake House.



T-849  
Riverdale Hotel  
Tilghman Island Quadrangle

Tilghman

Avalon

Tilghman Island  
Landing

Pawpaw  
Cove

TILGHMAN

ISLAND

Fairbank

Blackwalnut

Cove

Blackwalnut  
Point

DOGWOOD  
HARBOR

Bay  
Neck

Upper Bar Neck  
Point

Lower Bar Neck  
Point

Tower



DRIVEWAY TO RIVERDALE  
TILGHMAN ISLAND MD







River-Hale Hotel, Tilghman, Md.

5911-K.





RIVERDALE HOTEL, TILGHMAN I., MD T-849

TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

WEST ELEVATION.

BILL BODENSTEIN, PHOTOGRAPHER.

8/90



RIVERDALE HOTEL, TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY,  
MD. T- 849

EAST ELEVATION

BILL BODENSTEIN, PHOTOGRAPHER.

8/90





T-249

RIVERDALE HOTEL

TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALENT COUNTY, MD

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

6 INCHES. PHOTO.

2/90